

# ICCVAM Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities



**February 2004**

Prepared by the  
Interagency Coordinating Committee on the  
Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)  
and the  
National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the  
Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
National Institutes of Health  
U.S. Public Health Service  
Department of Health and Human Services

## **THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE VALIDATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS and THE NTP INTERAGENCY CENTER FOR THE EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE TOXICOLOGICAL METHODS**

In 1997, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), established the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) to:

- Coordinate interagency technical reviews of new and revised toxicological test methods, including alternative test methods that reduce, refine, or replace the use of animals
- Coordinate cross-agency issues relating to validation, acceptance, and national and international harmonization of new, modified, and alternative toxicological test methods

On December 19, 2000, the ICCVAM Authorization Act (42 U.S.C. Å 2851-2, 2851-5 [2000]) established ICCVAM as a permanent interagency committee of NIEHS under the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM).

ICCVAM is comprised of representatives from 15 U.S. Federal regulatory and research agencies that use, generate, or disseminate toxicological information. ICCVAM conducts technical evaluations of new, revised, and alternative methods with regulatory applicability. The Committee promotes the scientific validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods that more accurately assess the safety or hazards of chemicals and products and that refine (decrease or eliminate pain and distress), reduce, and/or replace animal use. NICEATM administers ICCVAM and provides scientific and operational support for ICCVAM-related activities. More information about ICCVAM and NICEATM can be found on the ICCVAM/NICEATM web site (<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>) or obtained by contacting NICEATM (telephone: [919] 541-2384, e-mail: [iccvam@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:iccvam@niehs.nih.gov)).

### **The following Federal regulatory and research agencies are ICCVAM members:**

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Department of Agriculture

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Health and Human Services

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Cancer Institute
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- National Library of Medicine

Department of the Interior

Department of Labor

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

### **On the cover**

The NICEATM-ICCVAM graphic symbolizes the important role of new and alternative toxicological methods in protecting and advancing the health of people, animals, and our environment.



## BACKGROUND

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) held a strategic planning meeting on January 7-8, 2004 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. The purpose of this meeting was to set the strategic direction of ICCVAM for the next three years. This document provides a concise overview of that direction.

## ICCVAM's MISSION AND VISION

### Mission<sup>1</sup>

ICCVAM's mission is to facilitate development, validation and regulatory acceptance of new and revised regulatory test methods that reduce<sup>2</sup>, refine<sup>3</sup>, and replace<sup>4</sup> the use of animals in testing while maintaining and promoting scientific quality and the protection of human health, animal health, and the environment.

### Vision

ICCVAM will:

- Be recognized as a leading authority on test method development and validation both within the federal government and internationally
- Play a leading role in
  - Promoting high quality science as the basis of national and international regulatory policy
  - Setting and harmonizing international standards for scientific validation of test methods
  - Promoting and facilitating the development of priority alternative test methods
  - Identifying key alternative test methods and strategies and facilitating their validation and acceptance
  - Fostering humane and ethical approaches to testing that replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals
  - Promoting awareness and adoption of scientifically validated test methods by regulatory agencies both nationally and internationally
- Develop the internal and collaborative capacity to:
  - Ensure the scientific quality and integrity of its work
  - Implement reliable processes and operating procedures that are credible, effective and efficient

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<sup>1</sup> All of ICCVAM's activities are grounded in the U.S. Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animal Used in Testing, Research, and Training

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#USGovPrinciples>

<sup>2</sup> Reduction alternative: New or modified test method/s that reduce/s the number of animals required for a test method, while remaining consistent with sound scientific practices necessary to obtain valid results.

<sup>3</sup> Refinement alternative: New or modified test method/s that refine/s procedures to lessen or eliminate pain or distress in animals or enhances animal well-being.

<sup>4</sup> Replacement alternative: New or modified test method/s that replace/s animals with non-animal systems or replace/s an animal species with a phylogenetically lower species.

- Build national and international partnerships with governmental and non-governmental groups, including academia, industry, advocacy groups, and other key stakeholders
- Secure the necessary human and financial resources to effectively carry out its mission

## **CENTRAL CHALLENGE**

From 2004 through 2006, the central challenge that the ICCVAM faces is to strengthen ICCVAM's impact nationally and internationally.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

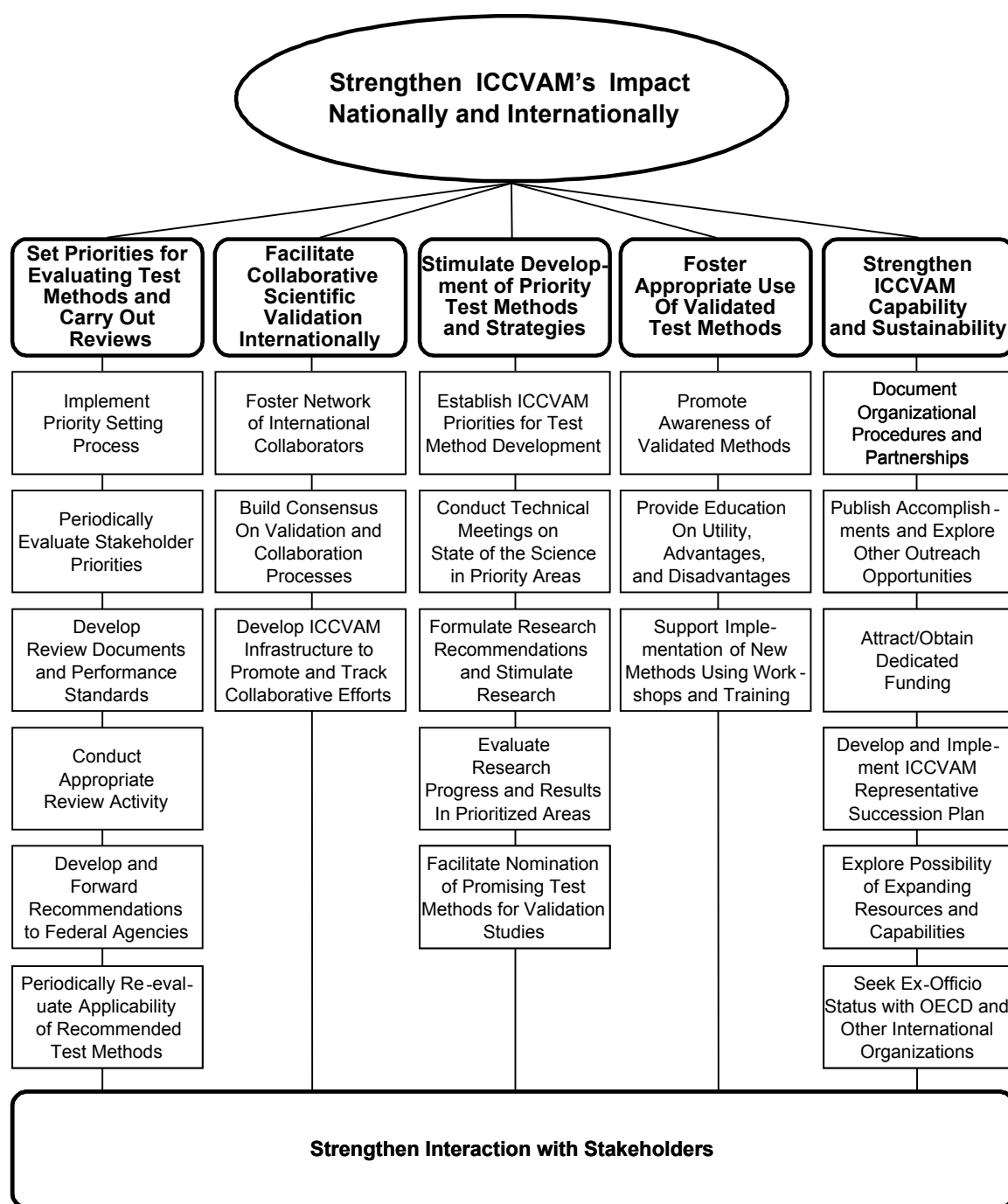
The following strategic priorities have been established in order to meet the central challenge:

- Set priorities for evaluating test methods and carry out the reviews
- Facilitate collaborative scientific validation internationally
- Stimulate development of priority test methods and strategies
- Foster appropriate use of validated test methods
- Strengthen ICCVAM capability and sustainability
- Strengthen interaction with ICCVAM stakeholders

A Strategic Map (**Figure 1**) and rationale for each strategic priority, its supporting objectives, and the accountabilities for implementation are detailed in the pages that follow.

**Figure 1:**

**ICCVAM  
Strategic Map: 2004-2006**



## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### ***Set priorities for evaluating test methods and carry out reviews***

#### **Rationale**

ICCVAM's ability to fulfill its legislative mandate requires that it function with both effectiveness and efficiency. This priority sets specific objectives to ensure ICCVAM's effectiveness, including implementation of the priority setting process that has already been developed and periodic evaluation of the priorities of its stakeholders. In addition, this priority includes objectives to ensure that ICCVAM continues to carry out quality reviews while improving its timeliness and efficiency in doing so.

#### **Objectives**

- Implement ICCVAM's priority setting process
- Periodically evaluate stakeholder priorities
- Develop review documents and performance standards
- Conduct appropriate review activities
- Develop and forward recommendations to federal agencies
- Periodically re-evaluate applicability of recommended test methods

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### ***Facilitate collaborative scientific validation internationally***

#### **Rationale**

ICCVAM's effectiveness in validating alternative test methods that replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in testing requires it to engage in a wide range of international collaborations. These collaborations provide the basis for ICCVAM to ensure sound science serves as the foundation for validating alternative methods, to promote broad use of validated alternative methods, and to encourage the harmonization of scientific approaches to validation and review.

#### **Objectives**

- Foster a network of international collaborators
- Build consensus on validation and collaboration processes
- Develop ICCVAM infrastructure to promote and track collaborative efforts

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### ***Stimulate development of priority test methods and strategies***

#### **Rationale**

Test methods must be developed and validated in order for them to be evaluated by ICCVAM. This priority outlines key objectives that ICCVAM needs to carry out in order to stimulate the development of test methods and testing strategies by others. It identifies actions ICCVAM will take to establish priorities for test method development, stimulate method development in prioritized areas, and facilitate the nomination of promising test methods.

#### **Objectives**

- Establish ICCVAM priorities for test method development
- Conduct technical meetings on state of the science in priority areas
- Formulate research recommendations and stimulate research
- Evaluate research progress and results in prioritized areas
- Facilitate nomination of promising test methods for validation studies

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM



## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### ***Foster appropriate use of validated test methods***

#### **Rationale**

Achieving ICCVAM's goal of replacing, reducing, and refining the use of animals in testing requires that validated test methods achieve widespread appropriate use. This priority and its supporting objectives outline key actions that ICCVAM will take to promote the awareness of those validated methods, educate key stakeholders on their appropriate use, and provide support for their effective implementation.

#### **Objectives**

- Promote awareness of validated methods
- Provide education on utility, advantages, and disadvantages
- Support implementation of new methods using workshops and training

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### **Strengthen ICCVAM capability and sustainability**

#### **Rationale**

This priority recognizes that ICCVAM's ability to carry out its legislative mandate requires both strong core capability and sustainable resource support. ICCVAM's success in implementing this strategic plan is dependent on the human and financial resources available to support the plan. As a result, this priority and its supporting objectives set forth efforts to obtain dedicated funding, explore the possibility of expanding resources and capabilities, and ensure the effective succession of ICCVAM agency representatives. In addition, this priority also includes ongoing efforts to ensure that ICCVAM develops effective organizational processes and operating procedures.

#### **Objectives**

- Document organizational procedures and partnerships
- Public accomplishments and explore other outreach opportunities
- Attract/obtain dedicated funding
- Develop and implement ICCVAM representative succession plan
- Explore possibility of expanding resources and capabilities
- Seek Ex-Officio status with OECD and other international organizations

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

### **Strengthen interaction with ICCVAM stakeholders.**

#### **Rationale**

This cross-cutting strategic priority recognizes that effective interaction with stakeholders is an essential component of implementing each of ICCVAM's strategic priorities. Strengthening interaction with stakeholders will help ICCVAM:

- Improve its effectiveness and efficiency in setting priorities for evaluating test methods and carrying out reviews
- Develop international collaborations that promote sound science in validating alternative methods and encourage broad use of validated alternative methods
- Stimulate others to develop test methods and strategies in prioritized areas
- Promote the awareness of validated methods among key stakeholders and provide implementation support for their appropriate use
- Build strong base capability and secure sustainable resource support

#### **Accountability**

ICCVAM  
NICEATM